

Boise River Greenbelt

One of Boise's most popular parks, the Greenbelt meanders along the Boise River for nearly 23 miles. The pathway stretches west past the Willow Lane Athletic Complex, and east to the Barber Valley. It links Warm Springs Golf Course with more than a dozen major parks providing open space and wildlife habitat in the heart of the city.

While it is difficult to determine exactly how many people use the Greenbelt, there is no doubt that it is one of the most widely used amenities in the Treasure Valley. A favorite of bikers, skaters, walkers and runners, it also accommodates commuters who welcome an alternative transportation route.

The Boise Parks & Recreation Department has added features to improve the accessibility to the pathway.

In addition to a multitude of recreational uses, the Greenbelt is a wonderful place to spot wildlife. Year round, visitors can view song birds, ducks, blue heron, quail, geese, hawks and owls. Bald eagles perch among the trees from November to March. Muskrat, beaver, fox and deer can also be seen along the pathway.

User Courtesies

Please observe the following courtesies and safety guidelines.

- Stay only on designated trails.
- Pedestrians have the right of way at all times. Cyclists and in-line skaters must be aware of pedestrians.
- All Greenbelt users should stay to the right and use caution under bridges and at blind corners where vision could be impaired.
- Pedestrians should not walk more than two abreast.
- Motorized vehicles and hoofed animals are prohibited. (Except for maintenance, patrol and vehicles for disabled visits.)
- Non-paved sections are restricted to foot traffic only.
- Dogs are allowed only on a leash of 8 feet or less.
- Dog owners are responsible for picking up after their pets.
- Cyclists and in-line skaters should maintain fast speeds
- A person passing other users must notify the users that they are passing - example: "Passing on your left." The person has the responsibility

to pass freely and clearly. It is also the responsibility of the passer not to hinder the approaching user.

- Don't harass or encroach on wildlife. Disturbing or collecting any vegetation or natural habitat along the Greenbelt is prohibited.

History of the Greenbelt

With its towering trees, lush growth and abundant wildlife, you may get a sense that this beautiful setting has always been here for us to enjoy. However, until the 1960s the river was a dumping ground for trash, industrial waste and raw sewage.

In 1964, the city completed a comprehensive plan and update to the zoning ordinance. A consultant suggested that the city acquire land along the Boise River to create a continuous "green belt" of public lands stretching the entire length of the community. Soon, a grass-roots effort was launched to clean up the waterway and create public access to the river corridor.

In 1966 and 1967 three small parcels of land were donated to the city to launch this "green belt."

In 1968, the first Greenbelt Plan and Guidelines were adopted by the Board of Parks Commissioners. A Greenbelt and Pathways Committee was appointed to guide the City of Boise in the development of the Greenbelt. In 1971 the first Greenbelt Ordinance was adopted, which required a minimum setback of 70 feet for all structures and parking areas.

Since then, the City of Boise has continued to piece together land along the corridor using several methods of acquisition, including purchase, exchange, leasing and donations of property by individuals, civic groups and corporations.

Today, the Greenbelt is maintained by the Boise Parks & Recreation with general fund support, state and federal grants.

Safety Tips

The Greenbelt is a safe and popular place enjoyed by thousands of people annually. But users should follow these simple common-sense suggestions:

- Stay alert. Take off your head phones and be aware of what's going on around you.
- Trust your instincts. If something or someone makes you uneasy, leave the area.
- Travel in well-lit areas. Avoid shortcuts through wooded areas, parking lots, isolated pathways or alleys.
- Carry a cellphone. Know your location in case you need to call 9-1-1 in an emergency.
- Report to the police unwanted contacts by strangers. Be able to describe the person accurately.
- Walk with a companion. You may feel safe with a dog but unless it is a trained attack dog it won't be much help if you are attacked.
- Be observant around buildings, bridges, trees and shrubbery – anywhere someone might hide.

Parking

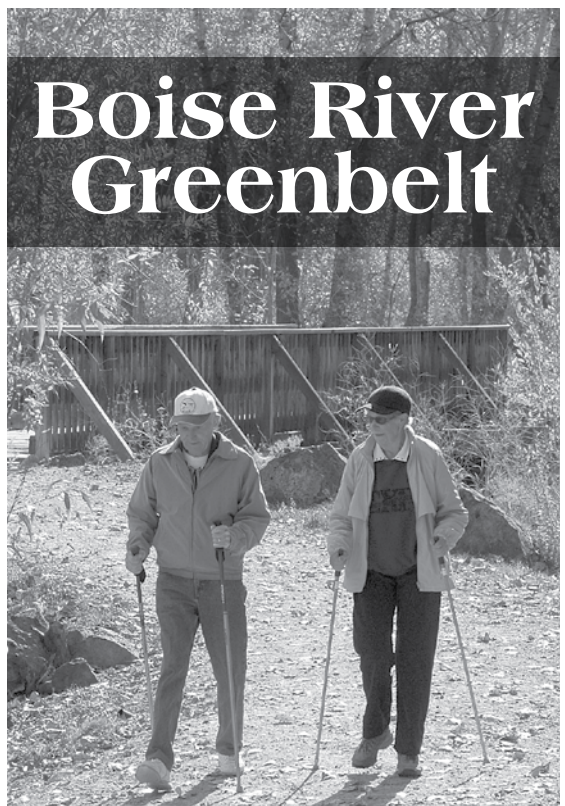
Visitors can access the Greenbelt from numerous streets and bridge locations, but perhaps the easiest access is from parking lots in these parks:

- Ann Morrison Park
- Bagley Park
- Bernardine Quinn Riverside Park
- Bown Crossing
- Julia Davis Park
- Municipal Park
- Riverside Park
- Shoreline Park
- Veterans Memorial Park
- Warm Springs Park
- Willow Lane Athletic Complex

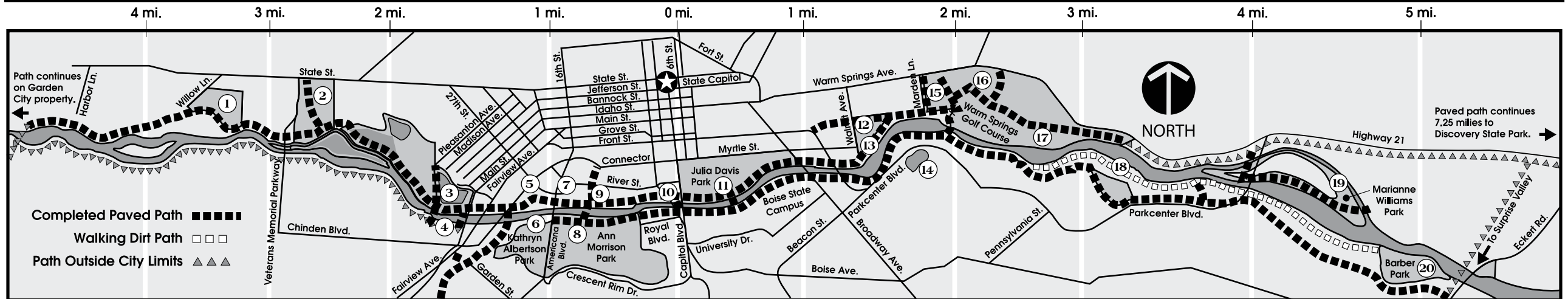


1104 Royal Blvd., Boise, Idaho 83706
(208) 608-7600, Fax (208) 608-7648
TDD/TTY (800) 377-3529
www.cityofboise.org/parks

To reserve park facilities for special functions,
call 608-7644
Volunteer opportunities are available by calling
608-7617



T H E B O I S E R I V E R G R E E N B E L T



Boise River Greenbelt markers are 1/2 mile apart and are numbered consecutively from the Base or Zero marker at Capitol Boulevard Bridge.

Points of Interest

- 1 Willow Lane Athletic Complex**
Six softball fields, tournament soccer field, softball fields, dirt BMX jump park, concession building, restrooms, parking lots and playgrounds.
- 2 Veterans Memorial State Park**
Veterans Memorial Plaza and Patriots' Walk. Open play areas, fishing lake, docks, pathways, picnic areas, covered shelter, playground and restrooms.
- 3 Bernardine Quinn Park**
A 27-acre park with 22 acres of water and 5 acres of open space. Currently undeveloped. Pond is stocked with fish; fishing is permitted. Accessible fishing dock can be reached off the Pleasanton Avenue pathway.
- 4 River Recreation Park**
Boaters will enjoy playing on adjustable wave features while spectators watch from a new Greenbelt observation area. Expected opening early summer 2012.
- 5 Riverside Park**
Memorial plaza with flags, plantings and statue honoring Idaho's Fallen Firefighters. Open grassy area, shady trees, picnic tables and restrooms.

- 6 Kathryn Albertson Park**
Urban wildlife habitat area with 3/4 mile walking loop. Colorful landscaping, lagoons, gazebos and restrooms. Interpretive signage. Dogs not allowed March 1-June 30 during waterfowl nesting season.
- 7 Shoreline Park**
Scenic overlook of Boise River and Ann Morrison Park; picnic tables and restrooms. Home base for Boise Police Department volunteer ranger program. Accessible parking with wheelchair access to the Greenbelt.
- 8 Ann Morrison Memorial Park**
Open play areas with scenic fountain. Playground, picnic areas, fireplaces and 3/4 mile river shoreline. Lighted softball fields, soccer fields, tennis courts, disc golf course, Old Timer's shelter, bocce courts and horseshoe pits.
- 9 Pioneer Walk**
Landscaped pedestrian pathway linking Greenbelt to downtown.
- 10 Idaho Anne Frank Human Rights Memorial**
An educational park adjacent to the Boise Public Library and The Cabin. Amenities include a 180-foot sandstone wall with quotes from philosophers, poets, presidents and Anne Frank; reflective ponds, waterfalls, a 90-foot reading circle; a bronze sculpture of Anne Frank.

- 11 Julia Davis Park**
Home of Zoo Boise, Idaho State Historical Museum, Idaho Black History Museum, Gene Harris Bandshell, Boise Art Museum, Discovery Center of Idaho and Rose Garden. Tennis courts, horseshoe pits, picnic shelters, playground, bocce courts and restrooms. Seasonal boat house and lagoon.
- 12 Municipal Park**
Shady park featuring picnic shelters, fireplaces and grills, large playground, bocce courts and restrooms. Weekend summer reservations are highly recommended. Accessible parking with wheelchair access to the Greenbelt.
- 13 MK Nature Center**
Operated by the Idaho Fish & Game Department. A unique 4.6-acre site with underwater viewing stations and educational signs. A living exhibit of fish, aquatic life forms, riparian ecology and stream hydraulics. Streamwalk, visitor's center.
- 14 Parkcenter Park**
A 13-acre park with a large pond for fishing and boating. Sand volleyball court, fishing docks, picnic tables, restrooms and parking. Some amenities are accessible for people with disabilities.

- 15 Natatorium Pool & Hydrotube**
Large outdoor pool, hydrotube and splashdown pool, concession, sundecks and tot wading pool. Grassy areas.
- 16 Warm Springs Park**
The undeveloped park features a 2-acre wetland designed to improve water quality by filtering it through ponds, marshes and aquatic vegetation.
- 17 Warm Springs Golf Course**
An 18-hole, 6,239-yard course with Pro Shop, lessons, cart rentals and restaurant. Open all year, sunrise to sunset.
- 18 Bethine Church River Trail**
A tranquil gravel walking path; bicycles are restricted. Idaho Birding Trail interpretive signs.
- 19 Marianne Williams Park**
When completed in spring 2012, the park will feature green space, ponds and natural areas, riparian areas, paved pathways, a restroom, picnic tables, benches and Greenbelt access.
- 20 Barber Park**
Operated by Ada County. Starting point for summer river tubers. Open areas, pathways, parking and events center.